

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Defense Stockpile Announces the Selection of the Mercury Consolidation Storage Location**

Mr. Cornel Holder, the Administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC), announced today that Hawthorne Army Depot in Hawthorne, Nevada has been selected as the mercury consolidation location for DNSC elemental mercury.

DNSC is responsible for the management of all commodities in the National Defense Stockpile, one of which is mercury. Congress declared most of the commodities in the stockpile to be excess to Department of Defense needs and authorized the sale or disposal of those materials.

As a result of concerns about mercury's impact on the global environment, DNSC voluntarily stopped selling excess mercury in 1994. The mercury inventory, approximately 4,436 metric tons, is in safe storage at three locations: New Haven, Indiana; Somerville, New Jersey; and Warren, Ohio.

The Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement (MM EIS) analyzed a reasonable range of alternatives for managing the DNSC mercury stockpile. The alternatives analyzed in detail were: 1) consolidation storage of the mercury stockpile at one site; 2) no-action, i.e., leaving the mercury at the existing storage locations, and 3) sale of the stockpile.

There were five sites under consideration for the mercury consolidation storage: New Haven, Indiana; Somerville, New Jersey; Hawthorne, Nevada; Warren, Ohio; and Tooele, Utah. Hawthorne, the selected location, has the facilities and expertise to safely manage the quantity of mercury that will be housed at the site.

The consolidation site selection was based on several factors, including environmental and economic conditions, policy considerations and stakeholder comments.

The consolidated storage of mercury meets the long-term closure strategy for DNSC and simplifies storage operations.

Plans to safely transport the mercury from the current storage locations to the Hawthorne Army depot are being developed. It is anticipated that the mercury transport will start in early 2007.

*The Defense National Stockpile Center is a field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency. The Defense Logistics Agency provides supply support, and technical and logistics services to the military services and to several civilian agencies. Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., DLA is the one source for nearly every consumable item, whether for combat readiness, emergency preparedness or day-to-day operations. The DNSC is responsible for all activities necessary to provide safe, secure, and environmentally sound stewardship for all commodities in the National Defense Stockpile.*